

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejections presented in the Office Action dated January 23, 2008 (hereinafter Office Action) have been considered. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-20, 24-26 and 29-46 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the pending claims and allowance of the application in view of the present response is respectfully requested.

1. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-20, 24-26 and 29-46 are rejected based on 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0061404 by Atwal et al. (hereinafter “Atwal”).

The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as previously presented are not anticipated by Atwal. However, in order to facilitate prosecution of the application and in a *bona fide* attempt to advance the application to allowance, the Applicants present this response with amendment to clarify particular aspects of the claimed invention. These amendments make more clear what is believed to have been originally set forth in these claims, but now states so more specifically.

For example, Claim 1 now recites that one or more service related parameters of a service request to service parameters associated with a plurality of network services to determine a best match among two or more compatible ones of the plurality of network services capable of handling the service request. Independent Claims 12, 19, 35, and 39 recite similar features. These amendments are fully supported in the Application as filed (e.g., Specification, 0036, 0045; and originally filed Claims 5, 10, 23, and 28) and no new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that Atwal fails to expressly or inherently teach choosing from two or more network services that may both handle the same request.

Atwal describes a gateway module 300 that resides between client applications 15 and Web services 25. (Atwal, 0043 and FIG. 2). Upon receiving a request from a client at the gateway module, “the web service request is delegated to the appropriate web service 25.” However, Atwal explicitly describes a one-to-one mapping between a request and a target web service. For example, “the web service request is delegated to the appropriate

“web service 25,” (Atwal, 0052); “interface unit 312 searches the web service registry repository 530 to determine the location of the requested web service 25,” (Atwal, 0052). In this same paragraph Atwal describes “repository 530 provides a mapping from the identity of the web service (a URI) to the physical location of the web service 25 and any other attributes of the web service 25 that are desirable to assist the gateway module 500 to interpret, process, and make actual requests or method calls of said web service 25.” It should be noted that these “other attributes” are used for invoking the selected web service, and not for selecting the web service.

Atwal describes a system where a number of web services are accessed via a gateway module in order to, for example, simplify authentication (Atwal, 0004), add functionality to an existing service (Atwal, 0006), dynamically aggregate services (Atwal, 0007), and simplify moving servers (Atwal, 0008). Thus nowhere does Atwal describe a situation where two different web services may service the same request, and further Atwal fails to expressly or inherently teach a system that is capable of resolving this issue. For example, the rejections rely on searching a “web service registry repository 530 to determine the location of the requested web service 25” in paragraph 0053 of Atwal to show “automatically selecting the network service whose service parameters provide the greatest compatibility with the one or more service related parameters” as set forth in Claim 1. However, Atwal fails to describe any rankings or other metrics related to these results, and thus this cannot be reasonably relied upon to show determination of “greatest compatibility.” At most Atwal describes finding compatibility or non-compatibility, but does not describe finding two compatible results, nor does Atwal describe using any comparison to determine greatest compatibility between results. For at least this reason, Atwal fails to anticipate independent Claims 1, 12, 19, 35, and 39.

Dependent Claims 2-4, 6-11, and 30-33 depend from independent Claim 1; dependent Claims 13-18 and 34 depend from independent Claim 12; dependent Claims 20-26 and 29 depend from independent Claim 19; dependent Claims 36-38 depend from independent Claim 35; and dependent Claims 40-46 depend from independent Claim 39. These dependent claims also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by

Atwal. While Applicant does not acquiesce with the particular rejections to these dependent claims, including any assertions concerning inherency or the taking of Official Notice, these rejections are now moot in view of the remarks made in connection with independent Claims 1, 12, 19, 35, and 39. These dependent claims include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and recite additional features which further distinguish these claims from Atwal, therefore, these dependent claims are also allowable over Atwal.

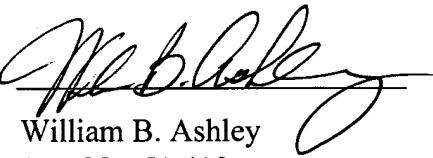
Authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3581 (NOKM.018PA) any necessary fees for this filing. If the Examiner believes it necessary or helpful, the undersigned attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any issues related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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